

# Hepatitis C Testing Guidelines

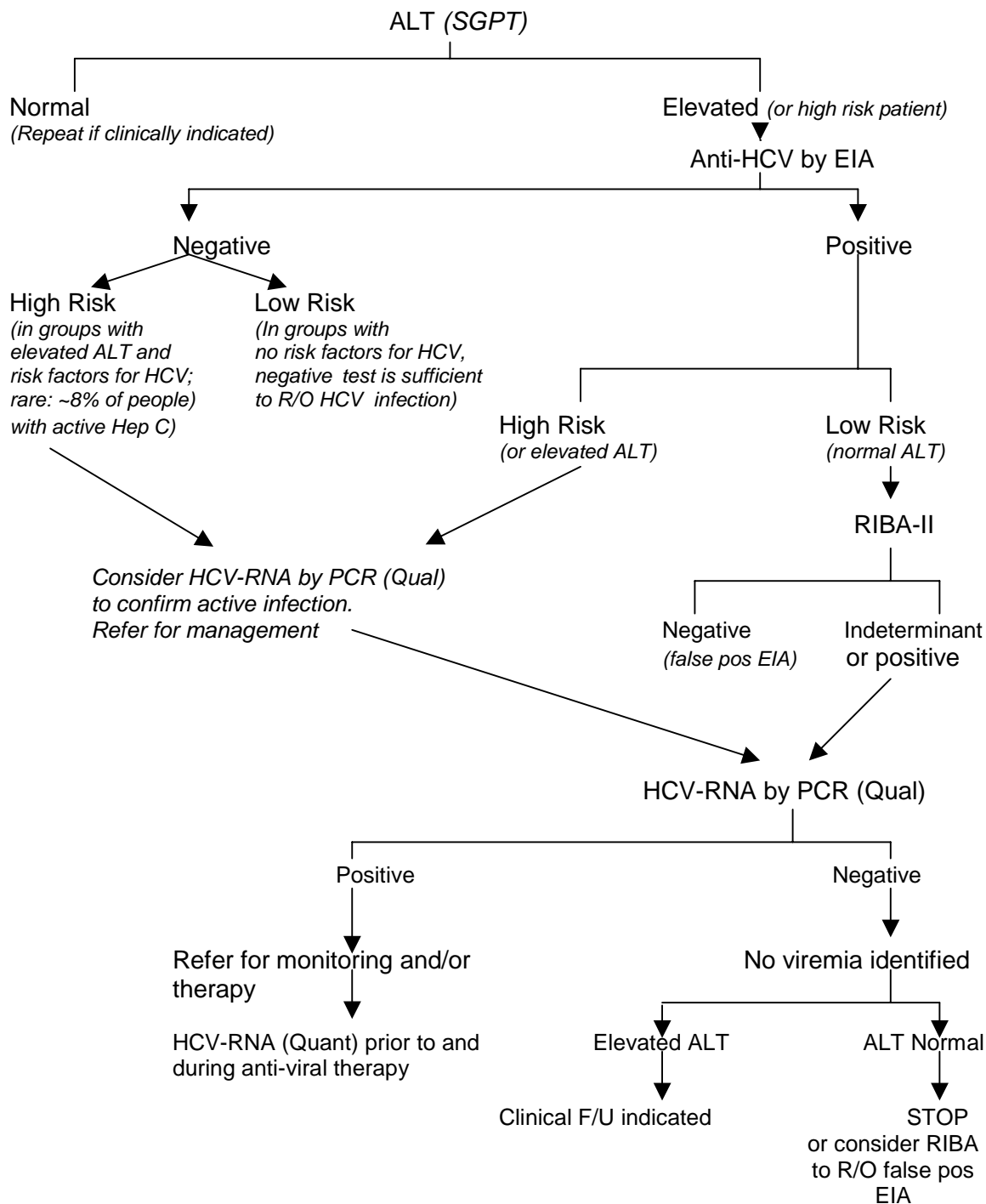
Washington State Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council  
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## FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

The individual clinician is in the best position to determine which tests are most appropriate for a particular patient.

### Screening

(See chart on screening recommendations for HCV infection on reverse side)



**Hepatitis C Virus Genotyping:** The HCV genotyping assay can be used as a guide to duration of therapy and can affect a patient's long-term response to interferon (IFN- $\alpha$ ).

(Over for screening recommendations)

# Screening Recommendations for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection

## **Persons who should be tested routinely for HCV infection based on their risk for infection:**

- Persons who ever injected drugs, including those who injected once or a few times many years ago and do not consider themselves as drug users
- Persons with selected medical conditions, including:
  - persons who received clotting factor concentrates produced before 1987
  - persons who were ever on chronic (long-term) hemodialysis; and
  - persons with persistently abnormal ALT levels
- Prior recipients of transfusions or organ transplants, including:
  - persons who were notified that they received blood from a donor who later tested positive for HCV infection
  - Persons who received a transfusion of blood or blood components before July 1992, and
  - Persons who received an organ transplant before July, 1992

## **Persons who should be tested routinely for HCV infection based on a recognized exposure:**

- Healthcare, emergency medical, and public safety workers after needle sticks, sharps or mucosal exposures to HCV-positive blood
- Children born to HCV-positive women

### References:

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### Reviewers:

1. Gretch, David, MD PhD, Director of Hepatitis Division, University of Washington Viral Hepatitis Laboratory
2. Spitters, Christopher, MD/MPH, Medical Director, Infectious Disease and Reproductive Health, Washington State Department of health